**Possible Focus Correction Areas**

***Content and Thinking***

*Expository Writing:*

* Accurate statement of facts
* Theme or unit words used/spelled correctly
* Clearly stated opinion
* Clearly stated topic
* Sufficient facts to support (opinion/thesis/point of view)
* Enumeration of similarities or differences in comparison
* Personal experience or anecdote as an example to develop a topic
* Example to support

*Narrative Writing:*

* Events relevant to plot
* Use of dialogue to reveal character traits
* Use of 5 W’s to tell the story (what, when, why, who, and where)

***Organization***

*Expository Writing:*

* Introduction that tells the reader what writer intends to do and how it will be done
* Introduction that grabs the reader’s attention
* Conclusion relevant to the topic or thesis
* Conclusion that sums up or brings to a logical end
* Appropriate ordering of ideas (chronological, sequential, most to least important)
* Transitions that help readers move from point to point
* Paragraphs that contain related ideas
* Unrelated or unimportant ideas edited out

*Narrative Writing:*

* Beginning that sets characters and setting
* Story events told in chronological order
* Story problem or conflict clearly described
* Resolution of story problem or conflict explained
* Transitions used to move reader from event to event

***Style***

*Expository Writing:*

* Avoidance of clichés or overused words
* Elimination of unnecessary words
* Word choice appropriate for audience
* No groups of short, choppy sentences
* Variety in sentence length
* Vivid language – powerful verbs
* Vivid language – figurative language

*Narrative Writing:*

* Use of interesting beginning to story to get reader’s attention
* Avoidance of clichés or overused words
* Variety of sentence length

***Mechanics***

*Expository Writing:*

* Capitalization
  + first letters of the first word in a sentence
  + pronoun *I*
  + proper nouns such as days, weeks, holidays, and geographic names
* End punctuation
* Quotation marks in dialogue
* Correct use of commas
  + in series
  + in the greeting and close of a friendly letter
  + separating city and state in and address
* Legible handwriting
* Complete sentences
* Underlining book titles

From *Developing an Effective Writing Program for the Elementary Grades* by Gary B. Chadwell

Collins Education Associates www.collinswritingprogram.com